

Minutes of the meeting of the **RECREATION COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 6th JULY 2011 at 8.00 p.m.**

PRESENT **Councillor B Hall (Chairman)**
Councillors S Bambridge, J D Clare, V Crosby, B Curtis, Mrs M Dalton, P Ducker, R S Fleming, G C Gray, I Gray, Mrs J Gray, B Haigh, Mrs S Haigh, K Henderson, Mrs K Hopper, M Iveson, Mrs S J Iveson, W Iveson, Mrs A Palmer, Mrs E M Paylor and A Warburton.

IN ATTENDANCE Councillor W.M. Blenkinsopp

OFFICIALS Mr A Bailey (Town Clerk)
Miss J Simpson (Leisure Manager)
Mr D Thompson (Works Manager)
Mr. S. Cooper (Environment Officer)
Mr N Whinham (Golf Professional)
Miss C. Ryder (Senior Admin Officer)

18. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs. B.A. Clare, T. Hogan and Mrs. V.M. Raw.

19. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

A declaration of personal interest was declared by Councillor G.C. Gray on Agenda Item No. 10 (Provision of Picnic Benches) owing to this being a family request, however, he would remain in the meeting for the discussion thereon.

20. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no public questions.

21. **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor R.S. Fleming, seconded by Councillor Mrs M Dalton and

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meetings of the Recreation Committee held on the 11th May and 25th May 2011 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

22. **OAKLEAF GOLF COMPLEX**

The Town Clerk and Golf Professional submitted a report which gave details of the income for the six weeks ending 26th June 2011 compared with the corresponding period of the previous year. The Professional advised of the forthcoming demo day by Taylormade which would be held on the 21st July. He also reported that the 9 month season ticket special was proving to be popular with 7 members joining in the first 5 days of the promotion.

RESOLVED – that the information be received.

23. **OAKLEAF SPORTS COMPLEX – USAGE**

The Leisure Manager submitted a report which detailed the attendance and income at the Oakleaf Sports Complex for May 2011 compared with the corresponding period in 2010.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the report be received.

24. **OAKLEAF SPORTS COMPLEX**

The Leisure Manager's submitted her report to update members on current initiatives at the Sports Complex.

Concern was expressed on the Sports Hall Floor proposed re-scrub and how this would affect the lifespan of the floor. The Town Clerk informed members that this was necessary works which needed to be carried out and it was hoped that the lifespan of the floor would be some 15 to 20 years. The works will commence to coincide with the quietest time of year.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the report be received.

25. **CAPITAL EXPENDITURE – SHOWER & LOCKER REFURBISHMENT**

The Leisure Manager submitted a report to provide an update for the planned 2011/12 asset management works at the Oakleaf Sports Complex for the male changing room and locker replacement.

RESOLVED – that the report and information be received.

26. **OUTSIDE EVENTS**

The Leisure Manager and the Leisure and Environment Assistant submitted their report for the six weeks ended 26th June 2011.

The 10k and 3k Family Fun Run had been a success despite the change of car parking and presentation venues. The Town Clerk reported that he would be meeting with the organisers of this event to sort out the future support from the Council to keep this event viable.

Local companies have agreed to loan the council vans for the Santa Tours on Christmas Eve.

The Senior Citizens Outings had proved very popular once again, however, there had been a few minor incidents of lost passengers. More explicit instruction sheets were being issued to the passengers and it was hoped that this would alleviate the situation.

RESOLVED – that the report be received.

27. **PROVISION OF PICNIC BENCHES**

A declaration of personal interest was submitted by Councillor G.C. Gray on this item owing to it being a family request, however, he would be staying in the meeting during the discussion thereon.

A letter had been received following the Council's recent decision to place picnic benches in West Park. The applicant was seeking permission to purchase the same type of bench and for the Council to erect them in the car park area of West Park for easy access for disabled persons.

RESOLVED – that the offer of funded picnic benches for West Park Car Park be declined as it had previously been agreed that this was not a suitable area for siting of benches.

28. **NEWTON AYCLIFFE FOOTBALL CLUB**

The Works Manager submitted a report which asked members to consider a request from Newton Aycliffe Football Club to use the grassed area at Moore Lane Park for additional car parking for a pre-season friendly against Darlington FC on Tuesday, 2nd August 2011.

Members had previously agreed to an application to use the Park in August 2010.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that permission be granted for the use of Moore Lane Park open grassed area for additional car parking on Tuesday, 2nd August 2011 subject to the following conditions:

- (i) That the covenants in the conveyance are noted.
- (ii) That pin and rope be used to avoid any encroachment on the play equipment and clearly segregate this area.
- (iii) That a suitable number of stewards are employed to direct traffic on and off the site and to prevent unauthorised access on to the A167.
- (iv) That a risk assessment, method statement and copy of suitable public liability insurance are received from the Football Club prior to the event.
- (v) That an indemnity is received for any damage to the grass.
- (vi) That the site is cleared of any litter after the event.
- (vii) That the use of the grassed area be subject to suitable ground conditions on the day.

29. **HUNTSMAN FOOTBALL TEAM**

A letter had been submitted from the Huntsman Football Team asking the Council to consider allowing them to use a football pitch at Horndale Park.

The pitches at Horndale had been closed and the changing accommodation was due to be removed from the site which would mean there would be no adequate changing facilities for visiting teams.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the Horndale Football Pitches remain closed.
- (ii) That the Huntsman Team be informed that all of the Council pitches are currently occupied and that we are not able to accommodate them.

30. **DARLINGTON SPORT IN THE COMMUNITY**

Correspondence had been received from DSC seeking the use of Council facilities to provide out of school football coaching.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that the Town Clerk seeks further information from DSC and a further report submitted to the Recreation Committee for discussion.

31. **TOWN PARK TODDLERS PLAY AREA**

The Works Manager submitted a report asking members to consider proposals for the provision of a toddlers' play area in the Town Park. Plans of the play areas were available for consideration.

Three schemes had been submitted and the following quotations received:

• Pennine Playgrounds Option 1	£35,135.19
• Pennine Playgrounds Option 2	£35,995.55
• The Play Practice	£34,150.00
• Streetscape Products and Services Ltd	£35,750.00

RESOLVED – that it be recommended:

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That Pennine Playgrounds Option 2 be agreed at a cost of £35,995.55.
- (iii) That approval is given for the project to commence immediately.

CHAIRMAN.